

Essay-

Progress of Medicine.

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of

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By

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Progress is the motto of
our time. There is no art
or science yet known which is
not at the present time progress-
ing with greater rapidity than
at any other time since the
creation of the world.

Never was there a time when more
strong minded enthusiastic men
were delving into the hidden mysteries
of science to search out some new prob-
lem by which to immortalize their
own name and to benefit mankind.

Let us for a few moments glance
at the Science of Medicine Its Progress
from our first knowledge to the
present time. Medicine was first

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practiced by the Priests among the
Egyptians as far as our knowledge extends,
although its origin is an unveiled
mystery. The first practice of
Medical Science was by means of
incantations, the whole effect being
produced through the influence of
the imagination (at the present day
ascribed to the faith of the patient).

The little knowledge gained was care-
fully cloaked in obscurity simply en-
joining cleanliness and rest. We
learn that among the early Greeks were
those who made pretensions in the healing
art among whom was Hippocrates who first
caused medicine to be regarded as a science
though one Chiron is accredited for introdu-
cing the healing art to his countrymen

thirteen hundred years before Christ. Aesculapius a student of Chiron was the first to make medicine an exclusive study. The descendants of Aesculapius were priests in the temples and the temples were used as hospital where the sick were brought, where the priests performed certain incantations, prescribed cleanliness, rest and simplicity of diet, to which must be ascribed their curative agencies as at this time no internal remedies were given. For several centuries succeeding Aesculapius Medical Science made not the least Progress. Temples were erected in honor of him and he was deified as the God of Medicine. But this science was destined not to rest here for other selfish and sagacious men arose who desired

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to turn the whole skill to their own praise.
The temples Cos and Enidos become rivols.
Then commenced a division to remain for
ever a division which sank deeper and
deeper till it struck a fountain which sent
forth a stream which will eventually wash
away all former Prejudices and narrow con-
cited views and the world shall rise up and
call it blessed. But to return. One assumed
to be philosophical and unite reason with
experience while the other was guided solely
by facts and observations. And we find at
the present day many physicians who
follow where theory leads regardless of the
slanders and railings of easily prejudiced
and superstitious community while yet
there is another set of practitioners (if we
may so call them) who are merely routine

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practitioners without any particle of pretension
or any rational system. They mount
their hobby and ride o'er hill and dale o'er
land or sea, hot or cold it's all the same
they neither turn to right or left and consider
it sacrilege even to turn their eye for
once upon any method except their own.

What a Glory to the world would it be were
such practitioners all concentrated in one
and he go down to the grave with the curse
of Macbeth upon him "No Son of his suc-
ceeding." In the sixth century before
Christ lived Pythagoras the pioneer of a
class of students of general information
and philosophical mind who gave much atten-
tion to the investigation of the structure and
functions and diseases of the human body.
he prosecuted the study of comparative anatomy

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by the dissection of animals. Among
his most illustrious followers was Democri-
tus, who is regarded as the first who ever
attempted the dissection of a human sub-
ject. One of the most sagacious
observing and industrious men that ever
lived was Hippocrates, the Boan Sage.
entitled the Father of Medicine brought
up among the Asclepiadae in the temple
of Esc. He regarded fire as the primitive
source of all matter the four elements
being a result of the collision and combination
of its ever moving particles. He contended
there was a general presiding principle of
vitality for the whole body and a special
vital power for each organ. And if we
substitute Electricity for his fire and the
modern phrase organic sensibility and

special centre of organic perception for his nature and power he would harmonize well with many Physiologists of the present day. He maintained that the fluids were the primary seat of disease and was never disputed till within the present century now the division is nearly equal. By his system the four elements Earth, Air, Fire and Water with their four elements Heat cold, moist and dry give rise to the four humors of the body a Blood, Phlegm, Bile and Black Bile and these tend to produce the four temperaments. With him originated the doctrine of crises. He noticed that fevers had a tendency to terminate on certain days, a doctrine which at this day by many is discarded. He used vegetable remedies only. Subsequent to the age of

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Hippocrates Medical Science again remained stationary for several centuries, except now and then a distinguished name among whom was Dr Chrysippus, who discarded bleeding and active purgatives and therefore was regarded as the first irregular Physician. But, many shall there be who shall go on and do likewise. Among other names were those of Plato and Aristotle, the latter wrote the first book on anatomy and physiology. Next came the Alexandrian school founded by the Ptolemies at Alexandria, three hundred years before Christ. The most famous of its professors were Erasistratus and Herophilus who dissected bodies of criminals obtained from government. The former having been a student of Chrysippus entertained his views in regard to bleeding

and purgatives, the latter paid particular attention to the actions of the heart and was the first to describe the different kinds of pulse. About this time the practice of Physicians and Surgeons became distinct vocations and about this time the great division already mentioned occurred which divided Medical men into two sects the Dogmatists and Empirics.

After the decline of Grecian Literature (about eight hundred years before Christ) medicine made no progress for a long time. During the warlike days of Rome she was six hundred years without a physician who made the healing art a profession.

Plagues and other epidemics were attempted to be stayed by such rites as would propitiate the offended deities. About two hundred

years before Christ the first regular physician by the name of Aesculapius established himself in Rome. At first he was revered and applauded but so severe was his practice and his results so unsuccessful that he was banished from the land and the practice prohibited by law. About a century after Aesculapius a pupil of Epicurus being unsuccessful in the teaching of Rhetoric turned his attention to medicine and being very mild and cautious he acquired great popularity. He was the first to divide diseases into acute and chronic. His pupil Themison founded the third sect eclectic, he also divided remedies into astringents and relaxants. A half century later arose Thesalus a self sufficient practitioner who by great swelling and abundant cunning acquired great reputation and wealth.

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He treated all predecessors with the greatest contempt even burning their books discarding their practice and taking upon himself the modest title of Conqueror of Physicians. Instead of assisting nature he introduced a new system called metasyneisis producing an entire change of the state of the body. This theory absurd as it was promulgated by its fabricator for no other purpose than to get gold and fame was adopted by subsequent medical writers and is now the chief corner stone of the so styled Regular Scientific Practice. During the first two centuries (after Christ) other divisions were made the most prominent of which were the Pneumatics and Eclectics. The Pneumatics taught that the body was composed of solids fluids and spirits.

The most eminent ^{write} was Aetacus.

The most celebrated of the Eclectics was Archigenes. His writings were obscure and chimerical yet he acquired great popularity undoubtedly more indebted to his unintelligible ^{writings} than any other circumstance of his fame. About this time was the first Pharmacopœia established and a compound theriac formed consisting of sixty three ingredients the most essential of which and that from which its name was derived was the dried flesh of vipers. This nostrum was prescribed by regular physicians for almost every known disease and retained in the Pharmacopœias till within the present century - even the cod liver oil of our day has not been a greater hobby. Of the history of Galen we shall say but little he was a

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Roman practitioner living about the third century. He discarded most former works except those of Hippocrates and relying upon his own skill and knowledge. About this time the Roman Empire began to decline and for two or three centuries we have no record except of a few Oribasius of the fourth and Aetius of the fifth and Paulus of the sixth centuries who wrote mere commentaries on the works of Galen. About the middle of the seventh century Paulus died which terminated the Greek School of Medicine. From the twelfth to the fifteenth centuries the practice of medicine was mainly in the hands of the monks whose healing resources were mainly magical art and astrological superstitions. With them the science of Chemistry or

Alchemy was assiduously applied the result of which was to introduce many chemical preparations into the materia medica. The first school to grant diplomas was at this period the Neapolitan of Salerno. About the thirteenth century the study of Anatomy was prosecuted by dissections and in the thirteenth century was founded the college of Physicians and Surgeons at London. Next appeared upon the stage the prince of Empirics Paracelsus by name whom the whole medical world denounce as a base impudent unprincipled charlatan. yet to whom the same medical world are more indebted for present system of allopathic

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drugging than to all other physicians
that have ever lived. It is to him
we owe the introduction of the Mercurial
and Antimonial practice which con-
stitutes the great strength of the
popular materia medica. This is
the great foundation stone on which
rests the present self styled Regular
Scientific Practice. Let this founda-
tion be taken from them and
it would be like a house built
upon the sand the first storm of dis-
ease which sweeps over our land
would sink it in lasting oblivion
and its advocates would be scattered
like sheep without a shepherd.
His imitators style him the Quick
Silver Doctor and discord his theory—

neither can we uphold him conceiv-
ing as we do that he introduced a sys-
tem of practice that has carried thousands
to an untimely grave. He was
born in Switzerland in 1493 was
a vain and pompous man styling
himself Aesculap, Phillippus, Paracelsus
Theophrastus, Bombast de Hohenheim.
By bold pretension and a few lucky
adventure he became celebrated. He
introduced counter irritation. He
removed a pain from the heel to
the toes which cured the former but
caused a permanent stiffness of the
latter. The injury was not lasting
for the patient soon died of Apoplexy.
During the seventeenth century the
doctrine of Hippocrates became the pre-

sailing medical philosophy. Anatomy
 made rapid progress. Harvey discovered
 the circulation of the blood. Asselli,
 Rudbeck, and Bartholin traced out
 the absorbent system and Malpighi
 Hooke and others explained the struc-
 ture and functions of the lungs. Boyle
 disengaged Chemistry from its sur-
 rounding mystery and explained its
 true province, not the manufacture
 of solid gold and liquid nostrums,
 but, an investigation into the change
 of properties which bodies experience in
 their actions upon each other. But
 we must pass over many names and
 systems among which are Vanhelmont
 the vitalist Hoffman the solidist also
 Boerhave Haller and Cullen. we have

also the fermentationists, the Chem-
ical, Anatomical, Mathematical the
Metaphysical, the Semianimists &c.
all of which we must pass over.

Moreover we might enumerate a long
catalogue whose writings are the
standard works of the present days
among whom we find the names of
Watson, Wood, Bell, Stokes, Ferguson
Liston, Druitt, Wilson, Dunglison, and
many others of the present day whose
writings serve only to involve the
medical world in perplexity their dis-
cordant voices mingling like so many
lights flickering in the distance serving
only to dazzle our eyes and darken
our pathway. But while the dim lights
were twinkling and reflecting and rebounding

with beclouded lustre carrying only
confusion through our land there
arose in the east a small but
bright light, a light which borrowed
no ray from surrounding bodies -
a light pure and bright of itself
growing stronger and stronger
shining upon the heads of wise men
guiding and directing them till it
shall illumine the whole world and
reclaim them from the dark and
thorny paths they have so long beaten.
But, as their lights grow dim and
are soon to be extinguished forever,
let us extend to them a helping hand
assist them down the last declivity,
place them on a foundation which is
sure grounded on the principles of

nature and lighted by that light
which shines with no borrowed rays
where all is purity and cleanliness.

Then may they truly say "their last
days are their best."

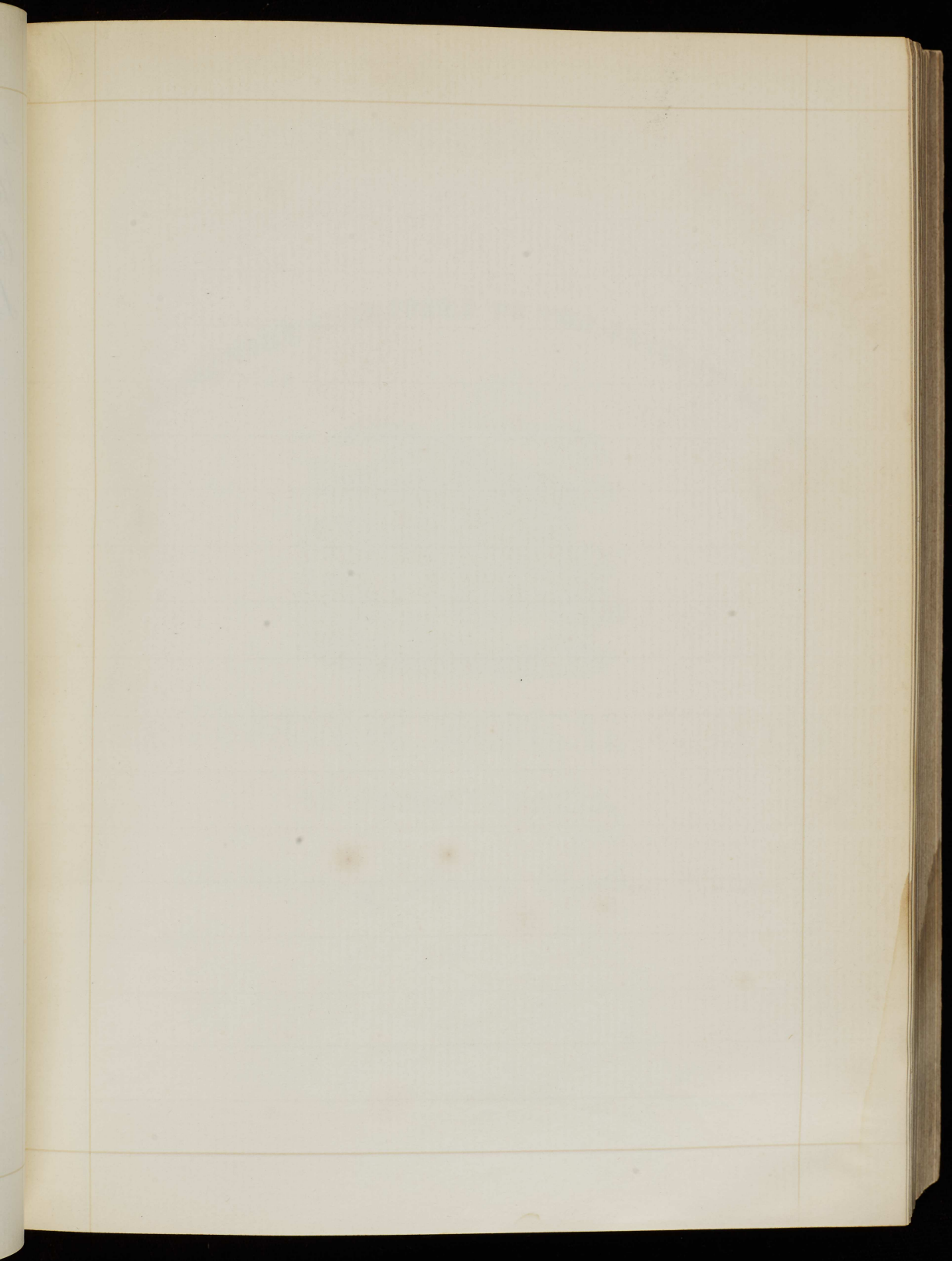
Set us
for a few moments investigate
this new theory.

Samuel Hahnemann was born in Germany in
1755 and pursued the study and
practice of medicine but being
dissatisfied with the operations of cer-
tain remedies as undoubtedly many
had before him he then commenced
investigations and experiments in
Medical Science till at last he hit
upon the true principle *similia
similibus curantur*. Although
true as his theory now seems he

was discarded by his country men
driven from his native country
and former friends, obliged to flee
to a strange land and strange people
yet being a strong and ardent lover
of science ever keeping his eye on
the true principle he pursued his
investigations with untiring zeal
though opposed by a jealous people
yet they could raise no barrier
which he did not surmount nor
any obstacle which he did not throw
aside but he was not destined to
be alone forever, for soon others began
to gather around him and his
doctrine spread throughout the land
with such power that the Eastern
Continent could hold it no longer.

it sprang aboard a vessel bound
for our continent and landed
upon our peaceful shore in
1829 first to the disgust and con-
tempt of medical men but as
it began to spread they began to
be alarmed and it soon spread
consternation through their ranks
for they saw it was an army dead-
ful and with banners. and daily
could be found numbers collected
together devising means by which
to extirpate the monster "humbug"
from our land. But Alas,
they were too late for already
three thousand practitioners
are daily passing through our
land on their errands of

mercy ever bearing before them
the motto Similia Similibus
Curantur now, Similia
Similibus Curantur forever.



AN ESSAY ON

Malaria

PRESENTED TO THE FACULTY OF THE



HOMOEOPATHIC MEDICAL COLLEGE
OF PENNSYLVANIA.

On the 1st day of January, 1881, Read and
Adopted

By the Faculty of the Homoeopathic Medical College of Pennsylvania
J. H. [Signature]